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TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: SEN. SCOTT MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO

1. SUMMARY. SENATOR SCOTT'S PERSISTENCE IN PESSING CHINESE ON TAIWAN ISSUE, AND VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO'S APPARENT MISCONSTRUAL OF A REMARK BY THE SENATOR, PRODUCED A RETORT BY CHANG THAT THE PLA WOULD CUT THE "TAIWAN NOOSE" OFF THE NECK OF THE U.S. IF THE U.S. DIDN'T TAKE IT OFF. CHANG ALSO VOLUNTEERED COMMENT ON RECENT PRC MILITARY EXERCISES IN FUKIEN, END SUMMARY.

2. THE TAIWAN ISSUE WAS THE FOCAL POINT OF A TWO HOUR DISCUSSION HELD THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 13) AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE BY SENATOR SCOTT AND VICE PREMIER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO. OBVIOUSLY PRIMED IN ADVANCE (THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN SENATOR SCOTT AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO), CHANG EMPLOYED TOUGH AND UNCOMPROMISING LANGUAGE TO DRIVE HOME HIS CENTRAL POINT: THE CHINESE ARMY IS PREPARED TO SOLVE THE TAIWAN QUESTION BY FORCE.

3. CHANG DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENT:
--CHINA CANNOT CONSIDER ITSELF UNIFIED UNTIL TAIWAN IS "LIBERATED."
--CHINA IS CURRENTLY MAKING PREPARATIONS. NOTING THIS, CHANG SAID TO SCOTT: "THIS IS NO MILITARY SECRET. THE SENATOR SURELY KNOWS THAT IN RECENT DAYS IN FUKIEN WE HAVE CONDUCTED SMALL-SCALE MILITARY

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EXERCISES. TAIWAN IS VERY NERVOUS."

--THE "LIBERATION" OF TAIWAN IS CHINA'S DOMESTIC AFFAIR IN WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE.

--CHINA'S HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE HAD TAUGHT IT THAT "PEACEFUL LIBERATION" IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY AND THAT IT WAS "MORE RELIABLE" TO SETTLE SUCH QUESTIONS AS TAIWAN "THROUGH WARFARE."

4. MUCH -- BUT NOT ALL -- OF CHANG'S SHARPNESS APPARENTLY STEMMED FROM SCOTT'S EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "WE WILL ALL TAKE GREAT SATISFACTION IN AN ULTIMATE PEACEFUL SOLUTION." CHANG ASKED SCOTT WHETHER "ULTIMATE PEACEFUL SOLUTION" REFERRED TO US-CHINA RELATIONS OR TO "RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE CHIANG CHING-KUO REGIME IN TAIWAN." SCOTT'S REPLY "I SPOKE OF THE US AND CHINA" WAS TAKEN BY CHANG AS A THREAT; CHANG STATED "I DON'T UNDERSTAND. DO YOU THINK CHINA AND THE US SHOULD FIGHT A WAR OVER TAIWAN? TAIWAN IS TOTALLY A DOMESTIC ISSUE."

5. WHEN SCOTT PICKED UP THE ISSUE THAT CHANG HAD ATTEMPTED TO DROP -- STATING THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO ARGUE, GIVEN THE CLARITY OF THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS -- CHANG RETORTED: "WE ARE VERY CLEAR ON TAIWAN. SINCE THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN HAS ARISEN, THIS IS A NOOSE AROUND THE NECK OF THE US. IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO TAKE IT OFF. IF YOU DON'T, THE PLA WILL CUT IT OFF. THIS WILL BE GOOD BOTH FOR THE AMERICAN AND CHINESE PEOPLES...WE ARE GENEROUS...WE ARE READY TO HELP THE US SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY OUR BAYONETS -- PERHAPS THAT DOESN'T SOUND PLEASANT BUT THAT IS THE WAY IT IS." ASKED BY SCOTT WHAT HE MEANT, CHANG SHOT BACK: "TO OVERTHROW THE CHIANG CLIQUE."

6. ELSEWHERE CHANG REAFFIRMED -- AS CHIAO HAD YESTERDAY -- THE CHINESE INSISTENCE THAT THE JAPANESE FORMULA AND ITS THREE TENETS SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR US-PRC NORMALIZATION.

7. THE CUTTING NATURE OF THIS EXCHANGE CARRIED OVER INTO SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES. AFTER CHANG LED OFF BY OBSERVING THAT "IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA BOTH SIDES HAVE MANY POINTS IN COMMON," HE ACIDULOUSLY REMARKED:

--"YOU DIDN'T HANDLE ANGOLA VERY BEAUTIFULLY."

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--"YOU MUST THINK THAT THE (SOVIET) POLAR BEAR IS HUNGRY SO YOU FEED IT YOUR GRAIN." WHEN SCOTT RETORTED THAT SALE OF FOOD IS NOT AN INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, CHANG SAID THAT THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM WAS JUST SUCH AN INSTRUMENT. CHANG DISPARAGED US SALE OF GRAIN TO CHINA, SAYING THAT EVEN MAJOR US SALES WOULD "ONLY PUT A FEW GRAINS IN EACH RICE BOWL OF CHINA'S 800 MILLIONS."

B. FULL TEXT AND FURTHER COMMENT WILL FOLLOW BY DEPTELS.
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